

Mindwalk Activity

Adapted from the lesson, The Historian's Sources, Library of Congress

Think of all the activities you were involved in during the past 24 hours. List as many as you can remember.

For each activity on your list, write down what evidence, if any, your activities might have left behind.

1. A diary entry, notes to yourself, letter to a friend, e-mail message, telephone message, etc.
2. Would traces of your activities appear in records someone else created (a friend's diary, notes, calendar entry, a letter or e-mail from a friend)?
3. Would traces of your activities appear in school records? In your school or local newspaper? In government records (e.g. driver's license, traffic ticket)? At your place of employment?
4. Would anyone else be able to offer testimony (or oral history) about your activities?
5. Other traces of your activities: trash you discarded, material objects you use everyday (coins, money, stamps, computers), objects in your own bedroom, items in your locker at school?

If future archaeologists had the materials you listed, what could they infer about your life?

ACTIVITY

EVIDENCE / TRACE